

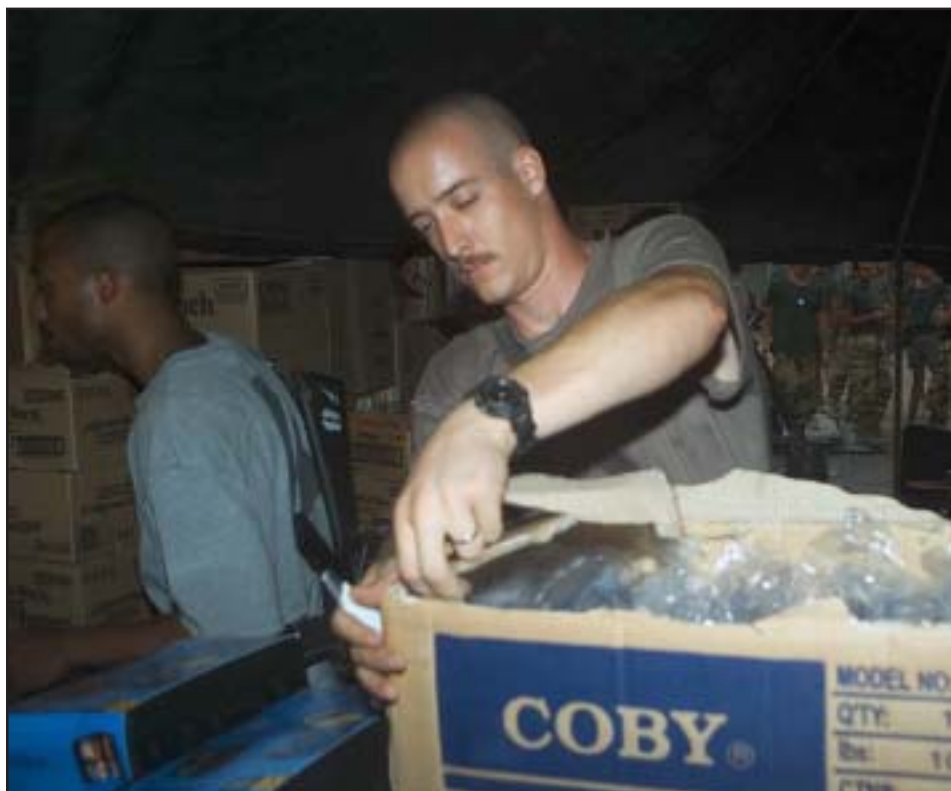
AAFES serves forward deployed troops

Story and photos by
Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALARNO, Afghanistan — When deployed to an established base, soldiers have some common luxuries, the Post Exchange is one of those luxuries, but the Army and Air Force Exchange Service doesn't forget about soldiers deployed forward.

A mobile site store is taken to forward operating bases and safe houses in Afghanistan. AAFES calls them "rodeos." They try to reach customers in areas that have no AAFES facilities and cannot visit a location with a facility. At these sites, AAFES serves 60-1,000 soldiers and coalition forces.

"It doesn't matter how many soldiers are there, we are still going to be there to provide for them," said Maria Schizas-Price, PX manager.



A soldier helps set up for the rodeo in Salarno. "The soldiers are always very receptive," said Maria Schizas-Price, Post Exchange manager.

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Bagram career counselors advise OEF soldiers

By Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan — It's a drill sergeant. It's a recruiter. No, it's a career counselor! The patch is worn on less than 700 soldiers.

Even while marching around the desert and searching caves in the mountains of Afghanistan, two career counselors are here, specifically at a soldier's service.

"Absolutely anywhere we are needed, we go," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Rohan, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, N.Y. and one of Bagram's career counselor.

Rohan has the challenge of being responsible for nearly 8,000 Army and Army Reserve troops here. If they want to re-enlist, extend or have questions, the re-enlistment office is the place to go.

"We also correct End Tour of Service dates, Basic Active

Service dates and Pay Entry dates.

"We are a kind of liaison between finance and enlisted records on a soldier. We handle all aspects of a soldier's timeline," said Rohan.

Rohan and Master Sgt. Gregory Patton, also with 10th Mountain, are the theater's career counselors. They arrived here two weeks ago and have already re-enlisted 25 soldiers and performed a half a dozen extensions, said Rohan.

He said the team also had more than 200 inquiries in the first two weeks they have been here — both casual and serious ones.

"A lot of our job is to dispel myths about the Army's retention program and also about stop loss," said Rohan.

Not only do the counselors have to be knowledgeable of the latest updates, but they also have to know their math.

See **REUP**, Page 4

World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



David Montiel Cruz is led out of a hospital for transfer to the San Jose Police Department.

Assault charges likely in girl's abduction

SAN JOSE, Calif. — The suspect in the abduction of a 9-year-old girl is to be charged with kidnapping, felony assault and sexual assault, authorities said Monday.

"We have had a chance to re-interview the young lady. She's 9 years old, and it's certainly difficult to do that under these circumstances. But there is enough information to charge that," San Jose Police Chief Bill Lansdowne told CNN.

The suspect was identified as David Montiel Cruz, 24. Lansdowne said a second person might have been involved in the abduction, but "we have not confirmed that."

"We're very sure that the suspect we do have in custody is the primary suspect who did the actual kidnapping," he said.

San Jose Police Sgt. Steve Dixon said the suspect "was alone at the time that we arrested him."

The girl was found alive late Sunday when she walked into a convenience store in East Palo Alto about 30 miles from her home, where she had been snatched Friday after coming home from school. The incident was captured on a neighbor's surveillance camera.

Lansdowne said it was unclear whether the suspect and the girl's family have relations, but they have friends in common. The suspect was arrested Monday a few blocks from the family's home.

Maryland pond drained in FBI anthrax probe

WASHINGTON — The FBI began drain-

ing a one-acre pond Monday in Frederick, Maryland, searching for evidence in the deadly 2001 anthrax attacks, the FBI and a city spokeswoman said.

FBI agents have returned to the site several times since the winter as part of their investigation.

"Based on extensive environmental testing already conducted, there is no indication of any threat to public health or safety associated with our search activities," said an FBI statement released Monday.

Some investigators said they believe the person behind the attacks might have dumped materials into the pond in the city's scenic Frederick Municipal Forest. There is also a theory the anthrax mailer might have packed the anthrax spores into envelopes under water.

Frederick Mayor Jennifer Dougherty and Police Chief Kim Dine issued a joint statement saying the pond being drained is one of 10 ponds searched by divers this past winter.

CNN has reported that agents found a clear box with holes that investigators said could accommodate gloves to protect an individual from exposure to anthrax. Investigators also say vials were recovered.

Bush: 'Absolutely convinced' Iraqi WMD will be found

WASHINGTON — Although U.S. search teams in Iraq have so far produced no proof of weapons of mass destruction, President Bush said Monday he remains "absolutely convinced" the evidence will be found.

The president gave brief comments to reporters at a Cabinet meeting hours after a key Democratic senator told CNN he believes the U.S. intelligence community deliberately manipulated intelligence to win support for the war against Iraq.

"Iraq had a weapons program," Bush said. "Intelligence throughout the decade showed they had a weapons program. I am absolutely convinced with time we'll find they did have a weapons program."

While Iraq was permitted to have conventional weapons under U.N. rules, it was

clear Bush was referring to the banned weapons of mass destruction — specifically chemical and biological agents.

Numerous lawmakers, mostly Democrats, have called for an investigation of pre-war intelligence and publicly questioned the veracity of some claims made by members of Bush administration in the months before the United States went to war against Iraq.

Idaho senator holds up Air Force promotions

WASHINGTON — Sen. Larry Craig, a Republican from Idaho, has put a hold on more than 200 Air Force promotions in an attempt to pressure the Air Force to live up to what he described as a commitment to station four new C-130 cargo planes in his home state.

In an interview Monday with CNN, Craig defended the move, saying that he received a commitment from the Air Force almost seven years ago that the planes would be delivered.

The hold was first reported in The Washington Post over the weekend. Craig's office said 212 nominations were on hold, but Pentagon officials said the number of nominations that could be affected by the move is higher.

"For 18 months I have been working with the Air Force to try to bring stability to an air guard mission in the state of Idaho, and during that 18-month period, long before Iraqi Freedom, they really refused to work with us," Craig said. "So some weeks ago I did place a hold. It was very public. It was certainly not a secret thing."

Defense officials also told CNN the reason the C-130s are not likely to be sent to Idaho is that they would have to "come from somewhere else" because no new aircraft are being manufactured for the type of transport mission done by that Idaho Air National Guard unit.

"It's a zero sum game; we would just have to take them from somewhere else," one of the defense officials said.

Craig said he informed Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist of Tennessee and is actively working with Virginia Sen. John Warner, chairman of the Armed Services Committee, to resolve the matter.



Maria Schizas-Price, PX manager, counts a soldier's change at the rodeo at FOB Salarno.

RODEO, from Page 1

Usually, rodeos last one day. Two AAFES managers will visit the site for a few hours and return the same day, but there are occasional multiple day Rodeos.

AAFES provides the service, but logistics is the unit's responsibility.

According to Schizas-Price, the day at the rodeo is not the only day of it. It takes at least two days of planning and at least one after to update the books and process the sales.

AAFES uses a fixed assortment of items

as a guideline when visiting a site, but tries to receive a list from the unit representative to find out what the soldiers want. High demand items include CD players and snacks.

The soldiers appreciate this opportunity. "I think they need to come more often. This is the only way we can get re-supplied with personal hygiene items and snacks. We really appreciate them," said Sgt. Robert French, satellite communications, 82nd Signal Battalion, Fort Bragg, N.C.

Capt. Ray Dunning, Task Force Devil / Italian Liaison Officer, 1st Brigade, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, Fort Bragg, N.C.

agrees.

"I think it is great (AAFES came here). We're in the middle of nowhere. It's nice for soldiers – Italian and American to get what they need – and some things they don't need. It's good for morale," he said. "(The soldiers are) as happy as hell."

Schizas-Price has been on more than 10 rodeos and sees the same reaction every time.

"The soldiers are always very receptive," she said. "They don't care what we bring, it is enough that we are there."

AAFES managers feel this is what AAFES should be doing.

"I think this is great. This is what separates AAFES from all other retailers. Our job is to serve the military community and give back with donations to MWR – this is above and beyond. We do this for the troops," Larry Falk, branch manager, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio. "I've been with the company for 27 years and this is the epitome of what I think we should be doing."

The soldiers like seeing AAFES visit and the AAFES managers feel they accomplish more by going on these rodeos.

"It gives a pride in work and a self-fulfillment of doing something that needs to be done. For what the (soldiers) are doing out there, this is the least we can do," said Falk. "One of the things that makes it worthwhile is when the (soldiers) come up and shake our hands and say 'thanks for coming out here.' It puts a spring in your step."



More ways to stay in shape...

Troops can now maintain their physical fitness without having to inhale the Disney Drive dust with the arrival of the long-awaited Life Fitness cardiovascular equipment. The first shipment of treadmills, bikes and elliptical trainers arrived about a week ago, and there are more on the way. (Photos by Pfc. Christina Carde.)



REUP, from Page 1

"It's tedious because you can't make mistakes. A small mistake can affect a soldier's eligibility to re-enlist, period," Rohan said. "It can also affect what options they are eligible for and can also change very important information like how much he gets paid. A bonus miscalculation can be disastrous. It's very math-intensive."

Rohan said his team will take at least one trip a month out to forward operating bases to help out soldiers, answer questions and/or perform re-enlistments.

"We don't want to divert their attention from their mission, so we go to them."

Rohan said he enjoys his job simply because he learns something new every day from the soldiers he talks to.

"You went through the same things these soldiers went through, so you have some common ground to talk about," he said.

Unlike drill sergeants and recruiters, career counselors are strictly volunteers. The job is also permanent unlike the previous mentioned duties.

"It's the greatest job in the Army," said Rohan. Rohan said he sees himself retiring as a career counselor, by not turning in his patch for his previous military occupational specialty.

"I don't know why anyone would. But the option is there."

For more information concerning re-enlistment, the office is located on the second floor of Motel 6, Room 202.



Bagram Air Base MWR presents

1530Z at the MWR building: "Rules of Engagement." An attorney defends an officer on trial for ordering his troops to fire on civilians after they stormed a U.S. embassy in a third world country.

Tomorrow's movie will be "A Knight's Tale."



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	<i>Today</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>
Bagram:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 91F L: 61F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 91F L: 64F
Kandahar:	<i>Dusty</i> H: 99F L: 63F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 100F L: 72F
Kabul:	<i>Mostly clear</i> H: 90F L: 66F	<i>Dusty</i> H: 90F L: 64F
Uzbekistan:	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 50F	<i>Partly cloudy</i> H: 91F L: 52F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from *ESPN.com*)

Woods says he won't be aggressive

Tiger Woods predicts that players will treat the second nine at Olympia Fields with great respect and adopt a defensive strategy at next week's U.S. Open.

A curious feature of the North Course layout at Olympia Fields is that there are no par-five holes after the turn and Woods, who has no equal in the modern game when it comes to course management, will not be adopting an aggressive approach.

"I think it's going to force everybody to play more defensive," said the world number one and defending champion, who played the par-70 course for the first time last week. "I think that's what a U.S. Open does.

"If you play aggressively and miss the ball the wrong side, you're going to pay the price, more than likely with a bogey or a double. I think the U.S. Open, in general, makes you play more conservatively."

Woods, who clinched last year's U.S. Open by three shots at a rain-sodden Bethpage State Park on Long Island, is expecting a very different test of golf at Olympia Fields Country Club outside Chicago next week.

"It's a different golf course, there are a lot of angles on this golf course," he said. "You have to shape the ball and you have to make a decision on your carries, what line you are going to take.

"At Bethpage, it was straight ahead and go ahead, go ahead, and speed it."

The 27-year-old American, by some distance the best player in the game, has not won a major title since his Bethpage triumph and has been forced to reduce his playing schedule more than usual this year following knee surgery last December.

But Woods, who remarkably managed to win three times in four starts when he returned to the PGA Tour earlier this season, believes his game is in good shape going into Thursday's start.

"I went out there and hit the ball just as flush

as I have been hitting it," he said, after his final-round 65 at the Memorial tournament on Sunday lifted him from 16th into a share of fourth with Vijay Singh. "I hit a few putts and got on a roll. I had one bad stretch of holes that put me out of contention to win. My goal was to play the same way I had been playing and I did that.

"Things are starting to show some real positive signs and I am pleased about that," he added.

Of all four majors played during the year, it is the U.S. Open which places the greatest premium on driving accuracy with its traditionally tight fairways flanked by thick rough, conditions which suit the methodical Woods.

Premium on 'been there, done that'

If you want to win the U.S. Open, and you can't be a 27-year-old tycoon with a dazzling smile and eight major championship trophies, your next best bet is to be on the

north side of 40. That's years, not strokes. When the palms start leaking sweat on the back nine of Father's Day at Olympia Fields Country Club, and



Scot Hoch.

the Open championship is at stake, recent history tells us that the contenders will include a couple of guys with creases around their eyes as sharp as the creases in their slacks. At the 2002 U.S. Open, at Bethpage Black Long Island, four of the top 10 finishers, including Nick Faldo and Scott Hoch, who tied for fifth, had reached the big four-oh. At the 2001 U.S.

Open at Southern Hills in Tulsa, three of the top six were over 40, including playoff loser Mark Brooks, Paul Azinger (fourth) and 52-year-old Tom Kite, who shot a 64 on Sun-

day.

The idea of an older golfer winning the U.S. Open deserves greater consideration this season because of the success of players such as two-time winner Vijay Singh (40), two-time runner-up Jay Haas (49), and Hoch (47), who has won five times since turning 40, most recently at the Ford Championship in March. Given how well they're playing, and what the United States Golf Association demands of an Open champion, the older golfers may have a distinct advantage.

Experience counts at The Masters, because the golfers who play Augusta National Golf Club every April eventually see shots and putts that they've had before. Experience counts at the Open for a similar reason, even if, as is the case this year, the Open hasn't been held at Olympia Fields in 75 years. Year in and year out, the USGA expects golfers to hit the fairway and hit the greens.

It sounds simple, yet, in the last decade, as distance has become the overriding characteristic in the design of clubs and balls, the younger golfers who join the PGA Tour think length first, and straightening out that length second. "The U.S. Open puts more emphasis on distance control and trajectory," said Scott Verplank, 38, who has made nine of 11 cuts in U.S. Open play. "If you're between 35 and 45, you still have more experience at that. I think, ultimately, that tournament is set up where ball control and brain control are important. Experience in understanding that is paramount."

Rocco Mediate, who turned 40 last December, finished fourth at Southern Hills two years ago, two strokes out of the playoff. "I'm 18 years out here. I've sustained how I play over 18 years. The U.S. Open is fairways and greens, no matter what anybody says. It's not about putting that week. It's about keeping the ball in play. It demands excellence at controlling your ball."

SPORTS, from Page 5

"If you were going to prepare a (course) where all the older players would play well," asked Kirk Triplett, 41, who tied for seventh at Southern Hills, "it would be the Open, wouldn't it? It's all about accuracy."



Kournikova.

Anna withdraws from two warmups ... and Wimbledon?

BIRMINGHAM, England — A tearful Anna Kournikova withdrew from a Wimbledon warmup tournament Monday after aggravating a back injury. Kournikova, who hasn't played a WTA Tour event in two months, had been practicing for the grass-court DFS Classic.

The Russian has a chronic back injury and also will not play in next week's tournament at Eastbourne, said Chris Shaw, a spokesman for Britain's Lawn Tennis Association.

Her status was uncertain for Wimbledon, which begins June 23.

"I'm very disappointed, actually devastated, not to be able to play in Birmingham," she said. "Grass is my favorite surface and I love playing in England. So having to pull out because of my back is the last thing I wanted."

She said these are the same problems she's had since the Australian Open, and the back pain causes discomfort in "other areas."

"I've been advised not to play this week or next week and I don't know any further than that," she said.

Kournikova, who has yet to win a title on the WTA Tour, sat on a chair in the clubhouse after a 45-minute session with American coach Harold Solomon. Tears were running down her cheeks.

She had been scheduled to play Tuesday or Wednesday against Dally Randriantefy of Madagascar. Randriantefy will now face Adriana Serra Zanetti of Italy.

Kournikova has won only one of her 10 matches this year on the WTA Tour and has pulled out regularly with leg and back problems. The former Wimbledon semifinalist has slipped to a No. 77 ranking.

She hasn't played in a tour-level tournament since retiring from her opening match at the Family Circle Cup in Charleston, S.C., on April 9.

Since then Kournikova entered lower-tier events in the United States. She lost to Bruna Colosio, a Brazilian ranked 384th, in the first round in Charlottesville, Va.

In a first-round match, ninth-seeded Laura Granville beat Ansley Cargill 6-2, 6-2.

Russia's Elena Dementieva holds the No. 1 seeding. Jelena Dokic is not defending her title.

Other contenders include former champion Lisa Raymond and former Wimbledon semifinalist Alexandra Stevenson.

Martina Navratilova is playing doubles with Australia's

Alicia Molik, tuning up for a bid to equal Billie Jean King's record of 20 Wimbledon titles.

Venus commits to play against Italy

NEW YORK — Venus Williams will play for the United States in the Fed Cup quarterfinals against Italy.

Williams, a four-time Grand Slam singles champion, and her sister Serena swept all five matches to lead the United States past the Czech Republic in the first round in April. The quarterfinals are scheduled for July 19-20 in Washington, D.C.

"Venus is one of the marquee names in women's sports and I am thrilled that she has committed to represent our country in Fed Cup in our nation's capital," U.S. captain Billie Jean King said Monday.

King has until July 9 to nominate the remaining United States team members.

Williams, the fourth-ranked player in the world, has won 12 Grand Slam titles and Olympic gold medals in both singles and doubles. She made her Fed Cup debut against Italy in the 1999 semifinals and helped lead the United States over Russia in the Fed Cup final. She has an 8-1 Fed Cup record (5-1 in singles), which includes a 3-0 record against Italy.

"I'm looking forward to playing Fed Cup in Washington, D.C.," Williams said. "I've learned so much from Billie Jean and coach Zina Garrison. I'm sold. I love it. I love playing for the team."

The winner of the quarterfinal tie will face either Belgium or defending champion Slovakia in the semifinals. In the other quarterfinal matches, Slovenia hosts Russia and Spain hosts France.

The United States is seeking its 18th Fed Cup title. It last won the title in 2000.



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By Kevin Kilgore

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